



consumer news

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Progress report: children's flame-resistant sleepware

Commerce Dept. is pursuing its program to make children's sleepwear flame retardant and hopes that technology developed along the way will also help to make other garments safe from fire.

Commerce Secretary Peter G. Peterson has announced that despite proposals for amendment submitted by industry the department's flammability standard for children's sleepwear will go into effect as scheduled [see CONSUMER NEWS, Sept. 1971]. Beginning July 29, 1973, the standard will bar from the market any children's pajamas, nightgowns or robes in sizes 9-6X that do not pass a flame-retardancy test established by the department. Between July 29, 1972, and July 29, 1973, the standard will require all garments not passing the test to have a warning label.

Peterson reported that the standard-setting process has also begun for older children's sleepwear, sizes 7-14. Peterson said: "The flammability problem does not stop with children's sleepwear. Virtually all clothing burns." He has instructed the Fire Research Advisory Panel, a 13-man scientific group appointed under the National Bureau of Standards in 1971, to keep watch over the development of technology for making fabrics safe from fire and to recommend promising technology for possible developmental funding by government. He said the technology and production techniques under development for children's sleepwear should enable industry to produce enough flame-resistant garments to meet the July 1973 deadline and also achieve the breakthroughs needed for extending flammability standards to other clothing.

If you smoke in bed . . .

Commerce Dept. has announced a new flammability standard for mattresses. The standard will require all mattresses manufactured after mid-1973 to resist ignition by cigarettes [see next issue of CONSUMER REGISTER for details].

Commerce Secretary Peter G. Peterson said that a cigarette allowed to burn on a present-day mattress "will ignite it at least 50% of the time." According to the National Fire Prevention Association, 21% of all identified single fatality fires that are not caused by clothing are caused by bedding.

FDA increases sanitation inspections

Dr. Charles C. Edwards, Commissioner of Food & Drugs, has announced an intensified regulatory program by Food & Drug Administration to eliminate insanitary conditions in food plants. He said: "It has become apparent . . . that there has been a general decline in the food industry's sanitation practices. This has been shown by recent FDA inspections and confirmed by a report of the General Accounting Office which concluded that serious insanitary conditions exist in the food industry."

FDA is notifying the food industry that the agency is increasing inspections and enforcement actions against sanitary violations. Violations uncovered by FDA inspectors will be brought to the attention of management, along with a request for a written response within 10 days to detail steps to be taken to correct insanitary conditions. This will be followed by a re-inspection within 30 days.

Dr. Edwards said appropriate regulatory action will be taken against a company upon discovery of any uncorrected violations. Such action could include seizure of products, an injunction against the plant or civil or criminal prosecution.

SOCIOLOGY & ECONOMICS
DePaul Public Library
Room

Is that charter flight for real?

If you're planning to go to Europe this summer on a charter flight for which you were made an instant member of a club, or which was advertised in the mass media, Civil Aeronautics Board warns that the flight is illegal and that you're taking the chance of losing part or all of your money. CAB is alerting the public to deceptive and illegal practices by some charter promoters.

Richard J. O'Melia of the agency's Bureau of Enforcement says that thousands of Americans were temporarily stranded abroad and in the U.S. last summer by unscrupulous charter promoters who failed to provide return trips on round-trip tickets or who failed to provide any transportation at all. Other travelers got their flights, but found the date and place of departure changed on short notice and at great inconvenience.

Usually, a passenger on a charter flight has no contract with the airline that is to carry him; the contract is with the charter promoter who in turn theoretically has a contract with the airline. CAB says it is in the passenger's own interest to deal only with legitimate chartering organizations.

Travelers should watch for the following indications that a charter flight may not be legitimate and may not be performed as promised:

- The flight is advertised in a newspaper, on the radio or on television. Bona fide charter flights are not permitted to advertise in the mass media and are not permitted to solicit passengers from the general public.
- The traveler is asked to join a club and accept a back-dated membership. Legitimate charters must involve clubs or associations whose main purpose is not travel; legitimate charters may accept as passengers only members who have been with the club for at least 6 months.
- The promoters are unwilling to disclose the name of the airline that will perform the flight. They may not have a contract with any airline and may not intend to make one until just before the scheduled flight if at all.
- The promoters' set-up appears obviously impermanent. How long have they had the same office and phone number? Do they work out of somebody else's office? Do they make extensive use of an answering service?

CAB points out that charter flights are not the only cheap means of travel available. Youth fares, excursion fares, inclusive tour charters and individual airlines with special low fares may also yield significant travel savings.

For more information on charter flights, write to Office of Consumer Affairs, Civil Aeronautics Board, 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20428. To make a complaint about a particular promoter, write to Richard J. O'Melia, Bureau of Enforcement, at the above CAB address.

Recall report

The following is a summary of Food & Drug Administration's recent product recall reports. The Complete *FDA Weekly Recall Report* is available free from Office of the Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs, Food & Drug Administration, Washington, DC 20204.

Regulax 40's labeled as Republic Drug Co., Inc., Buffalo. Bulk tablets made by Strong, Cobb & Arner, Cleveland. Product is also sold under the following private brand names by private label distributors: "Bilo-Sal" 40's, Mayov Laboratories, Los Angeles; "Natur-Lax" 40's, Macedo Pharmacy, New Bradford, MA; "J-C" Laxative Tablets 40's, Multi Vitamin Co., Niagara Falls, NY; "Natur-Lax" 40's & 90's, Miller Drugs, Buffalo; "Regulax" 40's & 90's, The Apothecary in the May Co., Cleveland; "Regulatize" 90's, Saraceni Drug Stores, Niagara Falls, NY; "Volume" 40's, Volume Pharmacy Inc., Meridian, MS; "Super-Lax" 40's, Excelsior Drug Co., High Point, NC. Reason for recall: FDA's withdrawal of new drug approval for laxative preparations containing oxyphenisatin. Recall procedure: Voluntary recall by Republic Drug by letter to retailers nationwide.

Red Cabbage in glass jars labeled in part "S&W Sweet-Sour Red Cabbage," 16 ounces. Made by Aunt Nellie's Food Inc., Clyman, WI.

Reason for recall: Glass particles.

Recall procedure: Voluntary by S&W Fine Foods, San Francisco, from retailers nationwide.

Aspirin Supplettes 1 grain (product #2001), 3 grain (product #20030), 5 grain (product #2005). Made by The William A. Webster Co., Memphis.

Reason for recall: Chemical decomposition.

Recall procedure: Voluntary recall by Webster by letter to wholesalers and pharmacies nationwide and international.

Bureau reports banned toys & makes correction

The following list names toys that Food & Drug Administration's Bureau of Product Safety banned in April & May because the toys were considered to be hazardous to children. The bureau says that in many cases the toys have been redesigned to eliminate the hazard and redistributed or dropped from the company's product line. The list comprises the generic or brand name of each toy, date of ban in parentheses, reason for ban and manufacturer or distributor.

Doll set—"Baby Allison" & "Cutie Pie Baby Doll"—made in Hong Kong (4-25-72). Accessory rattle breaks, exposing small objects.

"Cutie-Pie Baby Doll Sleeping Eyes," made in Hong Kong (4-25-72). Accessory chair breaks, exposing sharp edges.

Philip Krokow & Co.
Brooklyn, NY

"Santa Claus" figure container #12270 & #12233, made in Japan (4-25-72). Sharp nail can be exposed.

Paper Goods Co.
Cambridge, MA

"Hide N Seek" suction rattle toy #2708, assorted—3 "keys" & plastic animals—made in Hong Kong (4-24-72). Can be broken, exposing small objects & sharp edges.

"Little Angel Suction Toy" #2243, bell shape (4-24-72). Can be broken, exposing small objects.

Childhood Interests/Alan Jay
Roselle Park, NJ

"Jumping Jack Doll" 6½ inches with red or black hat, made in Japan (4-25-72). Sharp nails exposed.

Otogiri Mercantile Co.
San Francisco

"Nursery Bells" #5720, labeled "Patacake Rattles" (4-20-72). Can be broken, exposing small objects.

F. W. Woolworth Co.
New York

"Plastic Dolls" #KT/195—movable eyelids, head & arms—made in Hong Kong (4-25-72). Sharp edges.

"Miss Fashion Doll" #8/1006, made in Hong Kong (4-25-72). Sharp edges.

"Plastic Duck Rattles" #K1/913, made in Hong Kong (4-25-72). Can be broken, exposing small objects.

New York Merchandising Co.
New York

"Smart Cart," distributed by Sears, Roebuck & Co. (4-25-72). Can be broken, exposing small objects & sharp edges.

Western Publishing Co.
Racine, WI

"Patacake Rattles" #3/315—clear convex cover with handle styled like belt & buckle and egg-shape with handle styled like soprano clef (4-20-72). Can be broken, exposing small objects & sharp edges.

"Silver Mountain Express" battery operated toy locomotive, made in Japan by Casudaya (5-2-72). Sharp edges.

Gamble Import Co.
Burbank, CA

"Hobo Doll" yellow or red-orange hair (4-25-72). Flammable hair.

Royalty Designs of Florida
Hialeah, FL

"Merry Rattle" \$732, key shaped, made in Japan (4-25-72). Can be broken, exposing small pieces.

Bomar Co., Division
of Kiddie Products Inc.
Quantum, MA

Baby rattles, order #10649, made in Hong Kong (4-25-72). Can be broken, exposing small pieces.

Susan Crane Packaging Co.
Dallas

"Suzy" & "Simona" dolls, made in Italy (4-25-72). Straight pins & sharp wires.

Hildebrand Co.
Louisville

"Friends From Foreign Lands" #772 Korean doll & #785 Portuguese doll (5-1-72). Straight pins.

Alexander Doll Co.
New York

Bureau of Product Safety reports a correction to the March 1972 banned toy list (CONSUMER NEWS: April 15): "Play-A-Tune Typewriter Xylophone "with mallet & musical instruction sheet was shown as being imported by American Import Merchant's Corp. of New York. Instead, the importer was Cash Wholesale Co., a subsidiary of Sterling Stores Inc. of Little Rock.

FTC wants tire makers to track ad claims

Federal Trade Commission has ordered 18 makers & distributors of car tires to furnish it with documentation of advertising claims for 75 brands of tires.

The 18 companies are The Armstrong Rubber Co., New Haven; Atlas Supply Co., Springfield, NJ; Delta Tire Co., Cambridge, MA; The Dunlop Tire & Rubber Co., Akron; The Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., Akron; The General Tire & Rubber Co., Akron; The B. F. Goodrich Co., Akron; The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Akron; S.S. Kresge Co., Detroit; R. H. Macy & Co. Inc., New York; Marcor Inc., Chicago; Michelin Tire Corp., Lake Success, NY; Mobil Oil Corp., New York; J. C. Penney Co. Inc., New York; Phillips Petroleum Co., Bartlesville, OK; Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago; Spartans Industries Inc., New York; Uniroyal Inc., New York.

Following are typical of the claims that FTC wants documented:

Uniroyal Masters give you extra mileage.

Armstrong tires hold the road in any weather or road condition, grab strong and grip strong. The Michelin "X" m+s is the safest ice and snow tire ever made.

These documentation requests are the latest in a series in which FTC has asked for substantiation of ad claims for products such as autos, cold remedies, color TVs & toothpastes.

Agency seeks to halt organic claims for sugar

Federal Trade Commission has provisionally accepted a consent order prohibiting the manufacturer of Sugar in the Raw from misrepresenting that any of its sugar is "organic" and from making other false claims. The complaint cites Cumberland Packing Corp. of Brooklyn, its officers—Benjamin Eisenstadt, Marvin E. Eisenstadt & Betty Eisenstadt—and its advertising agency, Stiefel/Raymond Advertising Inc. of New York.

FTC's complaint alleges that the Sugar in the Raw commercials and printed advertising misrepresent the product because Sugar in the Raw

- Is not an organically grown food,
- Is a processed food,
- Does not have unique qualities not found in other types of sugar (thus, advertisements unfairly exploit consumers' aspirations to select foods best suited for their needs),
- Is not a significant source of vitamins & minerals nor is a significantly greater source than refined sugar (neither Sugar in the Raw nor refined sugar contain a nutritionally significant amount of vitamins or minerals),
- Is not substantially different from or superior to other sugars because of the absence of chemicals & preservatives.

The agreed upon consent order is for settlement purposes only and does not mean that the respondents admit to violations of law. Although FTC has provisionally accepted the consent order with the respondents' agreement to stop misrepresenting Sugar in the Raw, the FTC may change its decision and not go along with the consent order.

If you wish to comment on the advertising claims of Sugar in the Raw, send your comments to Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

Fact sheets available

Food & Drug Administration frequently publishes fact sheets to explain standards, regulations, laws and policies that it enforces. Two recent fact sheets explain milk & milk-type products (such as coffee lightners, which are imitations of cream) and symbols on food labels (such as C to indicate the label is copyright).

Consumers may get copies of the publication *FDA Fact Sheet* by writing to Food & Drug Administration, Office of Consumer Affairs, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

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